



# Jackline Noella

Jackline Noella, a vibrant single mother with two sons, came to St. Louis in November 2016 and immediately began working with the International Institute of St. Louis to become integrated into the community.

**W**HEN SHE FIRST ARRIVED IN ST. LOUIS with her two young sons, Jackline was worried about how she would learn English and find work to support her family. The International Institute helped her find a well-paying job and enroll her children in a nearby school. Jackline is frank about the challenges she faces raising two children on her own and credits the aid she received early on with enabling her to support herself and her family.

Thanks to the English classes she attended at the agency, she now confidently communicates and works as an interpreter. Her family has set down roots in the community, and Jackline is proud to have purchased her first home in 2022. She has planted a vegetable garden in her sunny backyard and looks forward to cooking and sharing the dishes she grew up with in Africa.

Looking to the future, Jackline is focused on continuing to provide for her sons and paying off her mortgage. She also plans to go back to school so she can pursue even better job opportunities. With a smile, she says, “One day, I want to be a big boss woman!”

Having recently become a U.S. citizen, Jackline looks eagerly ahead to the opportunities unfolding before her. Radiating peaceful joy, she describes how she will pursue the paths and possibilities that she says the International Institute opened to her. “All of us refugees and immigrants, when we start our lives here, we begin with the International Institute,” she says. “The organization and staff provide us the ability to become who we are.”

